



SOFBTALL RULES

National Federation Softball Rules will govern play, with the following modifications:

1. Team Requirements

- 1.1 A team shall consist of ten (10) players. Eight (8) players are required to begin a game. At no time can a team have less than eight (8) players on the field.
- 1.2 Unlimited substitutions are allowed, but must be reported on the score sheet.
- 1.3 All games shall be played on the date and hour scheduled. BE ON TIME. There is a 10 minute grace period allowed until the game is considered a forfeit.
- 1.4 Coed Modifications:
 - a. A coed shall be composed of five (5) men and five (5) women. A team can start with no less than eight (8) players, and must be four (4) males and four (4) females. A team can never have less than eight (8) players or else the game will be declared a forfeit. A team can play with (9) players, but when the (10th) player comes up to bat it is an out.
 - b. Each coed team must have three (3) males and three (3) females positioned in the infield. The pitcher and the catcher must be of the opposite sex. Each team must have two (2) males and two (2) females in the outfield. NOTE: pitcher and catcher must be of opposite sex.
 - c. The batting orders must be in alternating order (i.e.: male-female).
 - d. If a male gets walked the following female batter can take the walk if she chooses, thereby advancing the male to 2nd base.

2. Equipment and Facilities

- 2.1 All players must wear athletic shoes. Metal cleats, open toed shoes, and boots are not allowed.
- 2.2 No Double, Triple Wall, or Composite Bats are allowed. All bats must be ASA or USSSA Softball Certified with a 1.20 bpf rating.
- 2.3 Softballs will be provided by the XU Intramural Department.
- 2.4 All jewelry must be removed before participating.
- 2.5 Equipment such as helmets, pads or braces worn above the waist, leg and knee braces made of hard, unyielding substances, or casts is strictly prohibited. Knee braces made of hard, unyielding substances covered on both sides with all edges overlapped and any other hard substances covered with at least 2 inch of slow recovery rubber or similar material will be allowed.

3. Start of Game and Timing

- 3.1 The game will consist of seven (7) innings or 60 minutes. Any inning that has been started will be finished prior to being called final based on the time limit.

- 3.2 If any team is ahead by more than fifteen runs (15) after the fourth (4th) inning or ten (10) runs after the fifth (5th) inning the game will end due to the mercy rule.
- 3.3 Any regular season game ending in a tie will be recorded as a tie - no additional time will be given to break the tie. During playoffs or tournaments, extra innings will be played until a winner is declared.

4. Game Rules

- 4.1 All batters must run the base-path until that play is dead. Pinch runners are allowed and must be the last player to have been put out. Pinch runners must be the same sex as the player they are running for (i.e.: male for male, female for female).
- 4.2 Stealing and bunting is not allowed. Runners may not lead off the bases.
- 4.3 Sliding is illegal and the runner will be called out if he/she slides into any base including home. **MEN'S LEAGUE ONLY: sliding into home plate, feet first, is allowed only on closely contested plays.**
- 4.4 First basemen must occupy the white part of the first base bag, while base runners must utilize the orange section while running to first base.
- 4.5 The pitcher must deliver the ball underhand. All pitches are limited arch and must be between six (6) feet and twelve (12) feet above the ground. Any pitch that does not fall within this height requirement will be called "illegal" by the umpire and be automatically counted as a ball. The batter may swing at an "illegal" pitch, but the automatic ball rule will no longer be in effect.
- 4.6 An at bat consists of 4 balls and 3 strikes, with every at bat starting with a 1-1 count. A player who hits two foul balls with two strikes will be called out.
- 4.7 Each team is allowed to bat through their order 1 time per inning. This means no more than 10 batters an inning. However in the last inning a team may bat around until 3 outs are made.
- 4.8 The Infield Fly Rule will be in effect when deemed appropriate by the umpires.
- 4.9 The dead ball area on the park field will be the dugout fence extended through the outfield and all paved areas.

5. Other Rules

- 5.1 Ground Rules will be covered prior to each game.
- 5.2 In all instances not covered by the above rules, National Federation Softball Rules shall be invoked. The umpire shall have full discretionary power to enforce the rules as he shall see fit in order to conduct a proper game.